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The French commanders, especially Rochambeau, urged that the expulsion of the English from the South was of more importance than anything which could be accomplished in the neighborhood of New York. Washington could not be brought to accept this view, but he consented that a summons should be sent to De Grasse to sail northward with a squadron and troops from the West Indies. De Grasse started as soon as possible for the Chesapeake. Cornwallis under orders from Clinton had retired to the peninsula of Yorktown and was there watched by La Fayette. The situation was so favorable that Washington yielded to the persuasions of Rochambeau, and the united French and American forces started southward for the Virginia coast. The surrender of Cornwallis soon followed and thereby the position of the English at New York was rendered untenable. Of the forces that co-operated at Yorktown less than 4000 were Americans. The French had 7000 land troops and all the vessels and marines.

The appearance of the fifth and concluding volume of this work will be awaited with interest. It will contain the history of the peace negotiations.

HERBERT L. OSGOOD.

The Life and Times of John Dickinson, 1732-1808. Prepared at the request of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, by CHARLES J. STILLÉ, LL.D. Philadelphia, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1891.—8vo, 437 pp.

The subject of this biography has been aptly styled "the penman of the Revolution." The resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress, the well-known letters of a Pennsylvania farmer, the resolutions of the first Pennsylvania Convention, the first and second petitions of the Continental Congress to the King and their address to the inhabitants of Quebec, the declaration of the causes for taking up arms, and the first draft of the Articles of Confederation are all the product of his mind, and made him one of the leaders in the earlier stages of the struggle. Dr. Stillé and other writers before him have agreed in assigning the waning of this popularity to his opposition to the Declaration of Independence. But John Jay, William Livingston, Edward Rutledge, R. R. Livingston, Benjamin Harrison and Robert Morris were equally agreed as to the inexpediency of that declaration, and they seem to have in nowise suffered for their opposition. As a matter of fact, Dickinson's attitude did not deprive him of the confidence of the Continental Congress; for that body, at the very time when his opposition to independence was most pronounced, appointed him to draft the plan of government. It was only in his own colony that he suffered loss of prestige, and this was

due not so much to his attitude on the question of independence as to the clever partisan use that was made of this question. Dickinson was the head and front of the party which desired to preserve the proprietary charter, which for twenty years had been the paramount subject of controversy in the politics of the colony. A large party was opposed to this; and when independence became the question of the day they turned it to the purpose of crushing Dickinson and his party. They gave currency to the opinion that Pennsylvania could never take a firm stand with her sister colonies till the charter was destroyed; and so obtained a resolve from the then powerful and popular Continental Congress which enabled them to subvert the old government. Nor could Dickinson justly object that the convention which usurped the place of the assembly so destroyed was illegal and revolutionary, for he had taken part in the first of these self-created gatherings and had only drawn back when he found they had passed from his control to that of Franklin and the party he represented. The description of the struggle between these two factions, from 1755 to 1776, is one of the most valuable portions of this volume, and we agree with Dr. Stillé that the so-called proprietary party were right in their views of the interest of the colony; but in a time of revolution the "freeholders of £60" have little chance in opposing "the freeholders who have paid taxes and the sons of such freeholders"; and here, as in Virginia, the movement in favor of democracy played a most essential part in the revolutionary struggle.

Another point of much interest is the distinction the author draws in the attitude of the different statesmen of the period towards the Revolution. Many of the lawyers of the middle and southern colonies who had studied at the courts of law in London derived from this training, he claims, the theory of "legal resistance"; while the view of "natural right" common in New England he believes due to the lack of this training. Certainly the arguments of the period support this opinion; for the ground taken by Bland, Dulaney and Dickinson is radically different from that occupied by Otis, Hopkins and Jefferson. The distinction drawn by the former between internal and external taxes was, in the light of to-day, a very fine-spun and typically lawyer-like argument; but it gave the colonies a common ground between 1766 and 1775 and so rendered valuable service.

Certain errors need to be noted. Among them are the statement that Pennsylvania was the first state to ratify the federal constitution; the impression conveyed (page 191) that Dickinson drafted the "Plan of Treaty," which was in fact the work of Adams; and the ascription to Franklin of the "Reply to North" (pages 103-4) which was written by Jefferson. Nor is it just to the Continental Congress to give only Dickinson's own version of his behavior during the mutiny of the con-

tinental soldiers,—which the reviewer deems the greatest blot upon his record,—when Dickinson's message was declared by the chairman of the committee of Congress to be an unfair and partisan statement. Finally, the index is, for such a book, singularly inadequate and imperfect.

We possess many lives of the leaders of the American revolution, especially of those from New England and Virginia. But there were many men equally prominent in their day whose fame suffered temporary eclipse by reason of unpopular acts or a change in public opinion, and whose services have to the present day been too little appreciated. To this class Dickinson belongs; and for this sketch of his career Dr. Stillé and the Pennsylvania Historical Society deserve the thanks of all students of American history.

PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

Lewis Cass. By ANDREW C. McLAUGHLIN. [American Statesmen Series.] Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1891. — 12mo, vii, 363 pp.

The public life of Lewis Cass was one of the longest in our political history. His acts affected every administration from Jefferson's to Lincoln's, both inclusive. He remembered the adoption of the constitution, and he lived to see and rejoice over its preservation by the successful conclusion of the Civil War. He was one of the earliest legislators of note in Ohio; he was a distinguished soldier and officer in the war of 1812; he was governor of the territory of Michigan when Michigan, except in a very few localities, was little more than a wilderness, and at the same time he was an explorer and peacemaker of no ordinary qualities; he was secretary of War during a critical period; he was minister to France when France was at her gayest before the Second Empire, and he attracted as much attention there as any diplomatist of that decade; for twelve years he was a member of the ablest Senate in our history, and he was one of its leaders when great debates were common occurrences; he was candidate for the Presidency once and a conspicuous candidate for nomination several times; he held the highest place in the cabinet when it was a nest for treason, but he had the courage to leave it and to denounce treason, and subsequently to support the war against secession. There are probably very few, however, who would claim that Cass was a great statesman; he would not be classed with the twelve greatest of this century; but nevertheless he was a great public character, having a striking individuality and great political influence, and it is therefore fitting that his life is told in this series.

The chief purpose of biography is to give a clear and positive impres-